

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
BRIAN MARSDEN

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, Dr. Brian Marsden directed the Minor Planet Center, MPC, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts for nearly 30 years, where he kept track of the thousands of daily asteroid and comet observations from around the world. The responsibility of keeping track of these near-Earth objects, and potentially the fate of all humanity, could not have been in better hands than those of this capable, conscientious scientist.

Dr. Marsden became interested in astrophysics at the early age of five, when his mother displayed to him that method by which eclipses could be predicted in advance. His teen years were spent calculating forecasts of astronomical phenomena—long before modern computers or even calculators were available. By the time he was an undergraduate student, he had achieved an international reputation for the accuracy of his predictions of comets and for a number of new discoveries.

One of the most outstanding examples of his predictive prowess can be seen in his calculation of the return of comet Swift-Tuttle. The scientific consensus was that the comet would return in 1981, almost 120 years after it was last seen, but Dr. Marsden analyzed the available data and projected correctly that it would not return to the inner solar system until late 1992, over a decade later than previously expected. Swift-Tuttle has the longest period of any comet whose return has been successfully predicted.

Dr. Brian Marsden passed away on November 18, 2010. His soaring accomplishments have made this planet a safer place, and his legacy will live on for centuries.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER
LORENZO "PETE" CASALEGNO

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication, public service and patriotism of U.S. Navy Commander "Pete" Casalegno for 30 years of distinguished service to our nation, both with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force.

Commander Casalegno's military service began in 1965 when he enlisted in the Air Force and served as a weather observer and forecaster. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he served as a member of the combat weather team at Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, from December 1967 to December 1968.

Upon graduation from the University of San Francisco, Commander Casalegno was commissioned and subsequently designated as a naval flight officer. After completion of advanced training in the E-2 Hawkeye aircraft, Commander Casalegno was assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 114 and completed two overseas deployments onboard the USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) and the USS

Coral Sea (CV-43). During this assignment, Commander Casalegno completed arduous qualifications as Officer of the Deck and Tactical Action Officer.

After graduating from the United States Postgraduate School in 1981 with a Master of Science in Systems Engineering, Commander Casalegno was assigned to the staff of the Cruiser Destroyer Group Three as Assistant Air Operations and Electronic Warfare Officer. Involved in frequent deployments to both the Western Pacific and Southwest Asia, Commander Casalegno participated in military operations following the fall of the Shah of Iran and numerous humanitarian operations.

In 1985, Commander Casalegno reported to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 116 where he served as Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer during deployments to the Western Pacific and Southwest Asia. Commander Casalegno was involved in operations which included escorting U.S. merchant ships through the Straits of Hormuz and retributive strikes on Iranian oil facilities.

Following the tour, Commander Casalegno was assigned to the staff of Commander Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy. As a staff officer, he was involved in numerous North American Treaty Organization operations, including support of allied forces during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In 1990, Commander Casalegno was assigned as the United States Navy Exchange Officer to the Royal Navy's Maritime Tactical School in Portsmouth, England, where he trained senior allied officials in the employment of naval forces. In 1994, Commander Casalegno returned to the United States to serve at the Navy's Tactical Training Group, Atlantic Fleet, as the air defense instructor.

Commander Casalegno, his wife Marla, his daughter Julie, and his sons Cory and Phillip are stalwart Americans who have made enormous sacrifices over the last 30 years. Commander Casalegno has honorably and faithfully upheld the nation's special trust and confidence conveyed through his military commission. In every way, he has upheld his oath of office with true faith and allegiance. It is with the greatest sense of respect and appreciation that I stand today in recognition of Commander Casalegno and, along with the rest of my colleagues, wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE F.P. "SKIPPY" WHITE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to inform the House of the passing of long-time South Alabama State Representative F.P. "Skippy" White. Representative White died on October 21, 2010, after an extended illness at age 69.

Skippy was the epitome of a public servant. He served with distinction in the Alabama House of Representatives for three decades, proudly representing the people of Baldwin and Escambia counties from 1982 to 2006.

He began his career in public service as a firefighter and later councilman for his beloved

hometown of Pollard, Alabama where he held office for seven years. In 1982, he was elected as a Democrat to the Alabama House of Representatives and served in that capacity for 24 years. In fact, he was the longest serving legislator from Escambia County.

During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, Representative White worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama. He was distinguished as an outstanding legislator and served on the House Rules Committee and the Joint Transportation Committee. He is credited with improving the roads and bridges in his district where he took a great personal interest.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I extend deepest sympathy to his lovely wife, Clara; their wonderful children, Todd, Hugh, and Sarah Anne; and his family and many friends.

Representative Skippy White was much loved and respected by his constituents for his tireless dedication to Baldwin and Escambia counties. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

HONORING HANK DAVID GAMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hank David Gamel. Hank is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hank has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hank has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hank has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Hank has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hank designed and constructed a sign for the entrance of the Church of the Annunciation in Kearney, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hank David Gamel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING JAMES J. BOLLICH
AS 2010 AMERICAN LEGION POST
241 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Sergeant James J. Bollich who was recently named Legionnaire of the Year by American Legion Post 241 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Sergeant Bollich served this Nation with honor and distinction, and has lived an exemplary American life worthy of approbation.

Sergeant Bollich was born in the small farm community of Mowata and attended college at